

- CONFIDENTIAL
1. A platform for computer processing, connectable to an external communication network and a storage network and comprising:
 - a plurality of computer processors connected to an internal communication network;
 - configuration logic to define and establish (a) a virtual local area communication network over the internal network, wherein each computer processor in the virtual local area communication network has a corresponding virtual MAC address and the virtual local area network provides communication among a set of computer processors but excludes the processors from the plurality not in the defined set, and (b) a virtual storage space with a defined correspondence to the address space of the storage network;
 - failover logic, responsive to a failure by a computer processor, to allocate a computer processor from the plurality to replace the failed processor, the failover logic including logic to assign the MAC address of the failed processor to the processor that replaces the failed processor, logic to assign the virtual storage space and defined correspondence of the failed processor to the processor that replaces the failed processor, and logic to reestablish the virtual local area network to include the processor that replaces the failed processor and to exclude the failed processor.
 2. The platform of claim 1 wherein the configuration logic establishes virtual interfaces to define software communication paths among processors of the virtual network and wherein the failover logic includes logic to establish virtual interfaces from the processors in the virtual network to the processor that replaces the failed processor.
 3. The platform of claim 1 wherein the configuration logic establishes a second virtual local area network from a second set of computer processors and a second virtual storage space with a defined correspondence to the storage network address space and wherein the failover logic causes the processor replacing the failed processor to inherit the virtual local area network and the virtual storage personality of the failed processor.

4. A method of computer processing in a platform having a plurality of computer processors connected to an internal communication network, comprising:

defining and establishing a virtual local area communication network over the internal network, in which each computer processor in the virtual local area communication network has a corresponding virtual MAC address and the virtual local area network provides communication among a set of computer processors but excludes the processors from the plurality not in the defined set;

defining and establishing a virtual storage space with a defined correspondence to the address space of the storage network;

in response to a failure by a computer processor, allocating a computer processor from the plurality to replace the failed processor, including assigning the MAC address of the failed processor to the processor that replaces the failed processor, assigning the virtual storage space and defined correspondence of the failed processor to the processor that replaces the failed processor, and reestablishing the virtual local area network to include the processor that replaces the failed processor and to exclude the failed processor.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein when establishing a virtual local area network virtual interfaces are established to define software communication paths among processors of the virtual network and when a processor replaces a failed processor virtual interfaces are established to the processor replacing the failed processor.

6. The method of claim 4 wherein a second virtual local area network is established with a second set of computer processors and a second virtual storage space with a defined correspondence to the storage network address space and when a processor fails the processor replacing the failed processor inherits the virtual local area network and the virtual storage personality of the failed processor.

7. A system for providing a service addressed by an IP address, comprising:

at least two computer processor each including logic to provide the service;

cluster logic for receiving a request message for the service, the messages having the IP address, and for distributing the request to one of the at least two computer processors having logic to provide the service.

8. The system of claim 7 wherein the logic for distributing includes logic for analyzing the source information in an incoming message in determining which processor should service the message.
9. A method of providing a service addressed by an IP address, comprising:
including logic to provide the service on each of at least two computer processor;
receiving a request message for the service, the messages having the IP address, and for distributing the request to one of the at least two computer processors having logic to provide the service.
10. The method of claim 9 wherein source information of an incoming message is analyzed to determine which processor should service the message.